(d) the details of dates and schedule for such utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)'s actual crude throughput for the period April to October, 2002 was 4.18 million metric tonnes, which is 74% of the installed capacity of 9.69 million metric tonnes per annum. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has submitted a proposal to the Government to acquire majority stake in MRPL. As per the proposal of ONGC, capacity utilisation of MRPL is expected to improve. No decision has been taken by the Government as yet.

Sharing of Rise in Crude Prices

1470. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the State-owned oil marketing firms to share the burden of increased global crude prices and not pass it all to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that oil companies cannot increase the prices fortnightly by 25—30 paise in tandem with global prices to keep their rate of returns intact;

(c) if so, what are the other communications forwarded to these companies; and

(d) to what extent they have agreed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Special dividend by ONGC

1471. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned ONGC may give Government Rs. 10,000 Crore special payout which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 12th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that ONGC is being compelled to announce the Special Dividend by Government through a Presidential Directive;